



NOTICE OF PREPARATION
OF AN
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act
AUGUST 8th, 2013

2950 PERALTA OAKS COURT

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The East Bay Regional Park District (District) is the Lead Agency and is preparing an Initial Study and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the:

ARDENWOOD HISTORIC BUILDINGS DEMOLITION PROJECT

Located at: 34600 Ardenwood Boulevard, Fremont, Alameda County, California.

The District is requesting comments from responsible and trustee agencies and members of the public regarding the scope and content of the environmental document. Responsible and trustee agencies are requested to provide comments regarding the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to that agency's statutory responsibilities in relation to the project. The District is also requesting comments from interested members of the public regarding what should be included in the environmental document. Comments should focus on the accuracy and completeness of the Initial Study so as to further refine the scope of the EIR.

The Environmental Impact Report will be prepared in accordance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines. The environmental document will describe and analyze the potentially significant environmental effects of the proposed project and discuss ways to mitigate or lessen the effects. The District has prepared an Initial Study that identifies areas of probable environmental effects. The Initial Study is also available on the District's website: <http://www.ebparks.org/planning>.

Notice of Preparation Comment Period: The comment period for the Notice of Preparation will close at 5:00pm on **Friday, September 13th, 2013**, which is more than 30 days after mailing and posting of this document. Please note that while the comment period for the Notice of Preparation has a closing date, interested parties are encouraged to contact the District at any time during the EIR process to receive updates of the process, to ask questions, and share information. Please send written comments to Brian Wiese, Chief of Planning, East Bay Regional Park District, at the address listed above; or email to bwiese@ebparks.org. Write "Ardenwood" in the subject line.

Project Description: The purpose of the proposed project is to provide for public safety at Ardenwood Historic Farm Regional Preserve through the demolition or removal of three deteriorated buildings which have become a fire and public safety hazard. The three buildings, known as Bettencourt and Brown Houses, and the Mowry's Landing Schoolhouse, are of potential historic significance, and were moved from development sites in Fremont and Newark in 1984-1985 and stored on cribbing at the Ardenwood Historic Farm Regional Preserve (Ardenwood). At the time, it was hoped that the buildings would become an education center with a historic farming village theme within Ardenwood. However, due to the high cost of renovation, the restoration of the buildings has become economically infeasible despite various past efforts to rehabilitate them for public use. Ownership of the Mowry Schoolhouse was later transferred to the City of Newark. As a result of public safety issues, the District has proposed demolition without replacement of the three structures. See the Initial Study for a more detailed description of the proposed project.



Brown House



Bettencourt House



Mowry Schoolhouse

Probable Environmental Effects: As described in greater detail in the Initial Study, the EIR will focus on the potential significant impacts of the project, which are expected to be confined to the areas of: historic resources, air quality, and biological resources.

PUBLICATION AND MAILING DATE: Thursday, August 8th, 2013

SENT TO OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND PLANNING: Thursday, August 8th, 2013

CLOSE OF SCOPING COMMENT PERIOD: Friday, September 13th, 2013